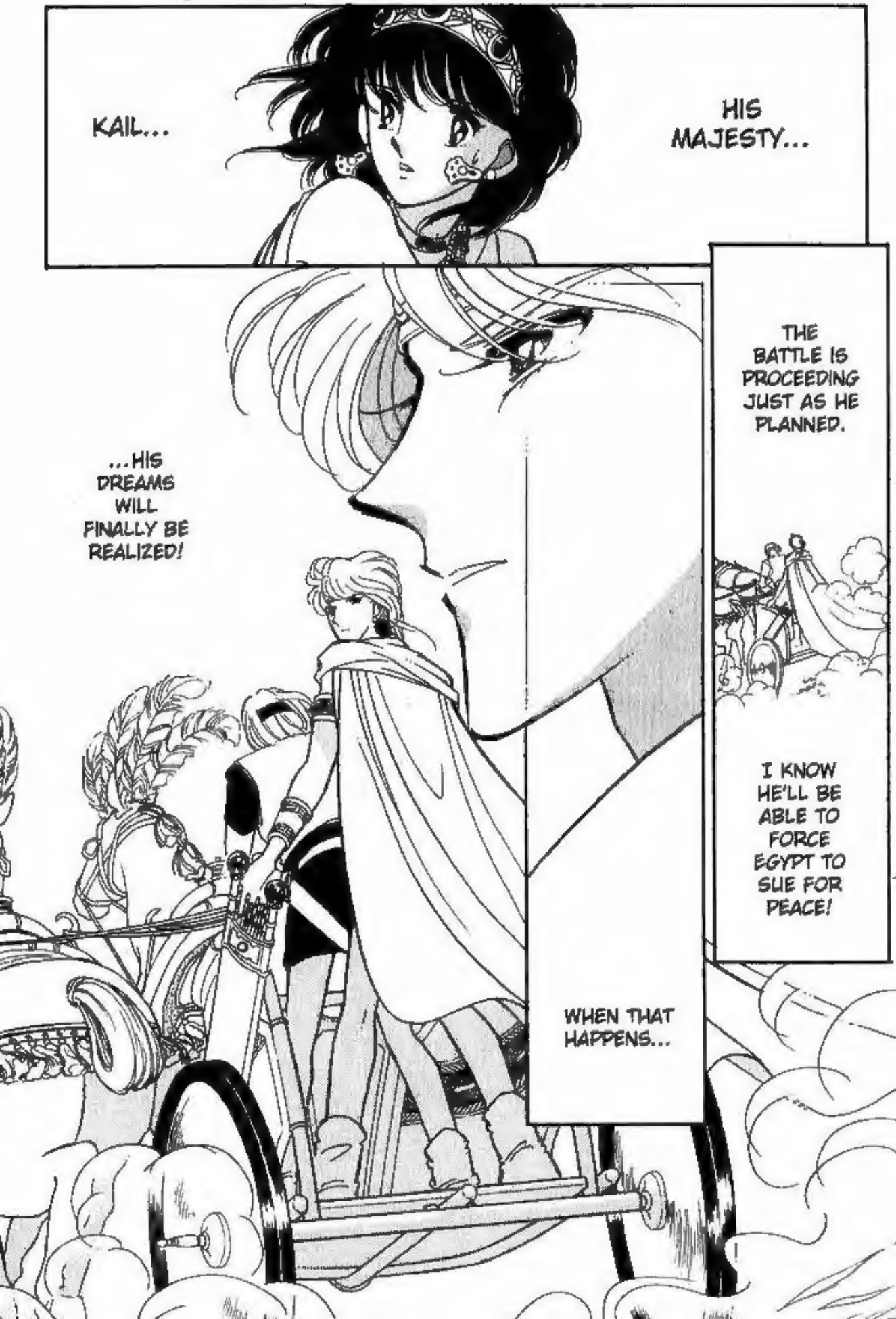
WHINNY
S... SIR?!
WASET!
UNHITCH THE HORSES FROM THE CHARIOT!
SECHEM!
WHERE'S LIEUTENANT GENERAL SECHEM?!
I WANT HIM TO TAKE COMMAND!
KLINK

I'M HERE!
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS, SIR?
I HAVE A PRIVATE MATTER TO ATTEND TO.
KLANG
WHAT DO I CARE?
THIS ISN'T MY WAR!
SIR! YOU'RE ABANDONING YOUR TROOPS?
WHAT ABOUT THE BATTLE?!

SIR, WAIT!
WHAT I'D GIVE TO FIGHT MURSILI II ON EQUAL TERMS!
HOW I WISH I WERE IN HIS POSITION!
OR HE IN MINE!
NO MATTER WHAT COMES TO PASS...

...I WILL FACE HIM MAN TO MAN!
TA-RU-MP

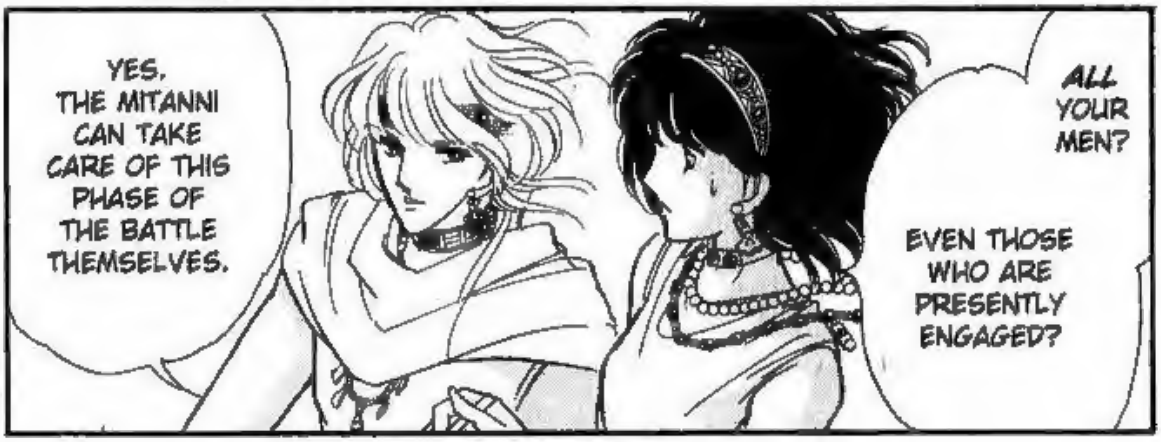
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
PRINCESS YURI!
OUR TROOPS ARE ADVANCING!
BY PRECISELY FOLLOWING HIS MAJESTY'S BATTLE PLAN, THEY'RE GAINING GROUND!
THAT'S GREAT!


KAIL...
HIS MAJESTY...
THE BATTLE IS PROCEEDING JUST AS HE PLANNED.
...HIS DREAMS WILL FINALLY BE REALIZED!
I KNOW HE'LL BE ABLE TO FORCE EGYPT TO SUE FOR PEACE!
WHEN THAT HAPPENS...

ROAR
RUSAFA!
RYUI!
WHAT?
TAHARQA? WHO'S THAT?
WE MUST BE CAREFUL!
TAHARQA IS WITH THE EGYPTIAN TROOPS!
AN EGYPTIAN WE ENCOURAGED TO HELP LEAD A REBELLION AS PART OF OUR PLAN TO FREE RAMSES.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR US TO ABANDON THE REBELLION AND LEAVE THE REBELS TO RAMSES' MERCY.
NOW HE HOLDS A GRUDGE AGAINST PRINCESS YURI AND WANTS TO KILL HER.

HE MAY TRY TO ATTACK HER AGAIN.
DO YOUR UTMOST TO PROTECT HER.
OF COURSE!
I WON'T ALLOW IT!
...
HE WANTS TO KILL PRINCESS YURI?! NOT ON MY WATCH!
CLOP CLOP CLOP
YURI!

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
I WANT YOU TO GATHER MY MEN ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE PRAIRIE.
WHAT IS IT, KAIL?


YES. THE MITANNI CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS PHASE OF THE BATTLE THEMSELVES.
ALL YOUR MEN?
EVEN THOSE WHO ARE PRESENTLY ENGAGED?

I AM CONFIDENT THAT IF WE DO, WE CAN ROUT THEM ONCE AND FOR ALL.
MY PLAN IS TO SURROUND THE EGYPTIANS AS SOON AS THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES.
I ASKED MY BROTHER, PRINCE TELIPINU, TO DEPLOY HIS MEN ON THE EASTERN SIDE.

I FEEL SURE WE WILL DEFEAT THE EGYPTIANS, BUT...

ROUT THEM?

AS LONG AS WE DO IT AT THE RIGHT TIME, YES.

I'LL LEAD YOUR TROOPS AS YOU COMMAND!

VERY WELL, SIR!

KRAK

...FRUSTRATION STILL GNAWS AT ME...
...FRUSTRATION AT NOT HAVING HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SQUARE OFF AGAINST RAMSES!

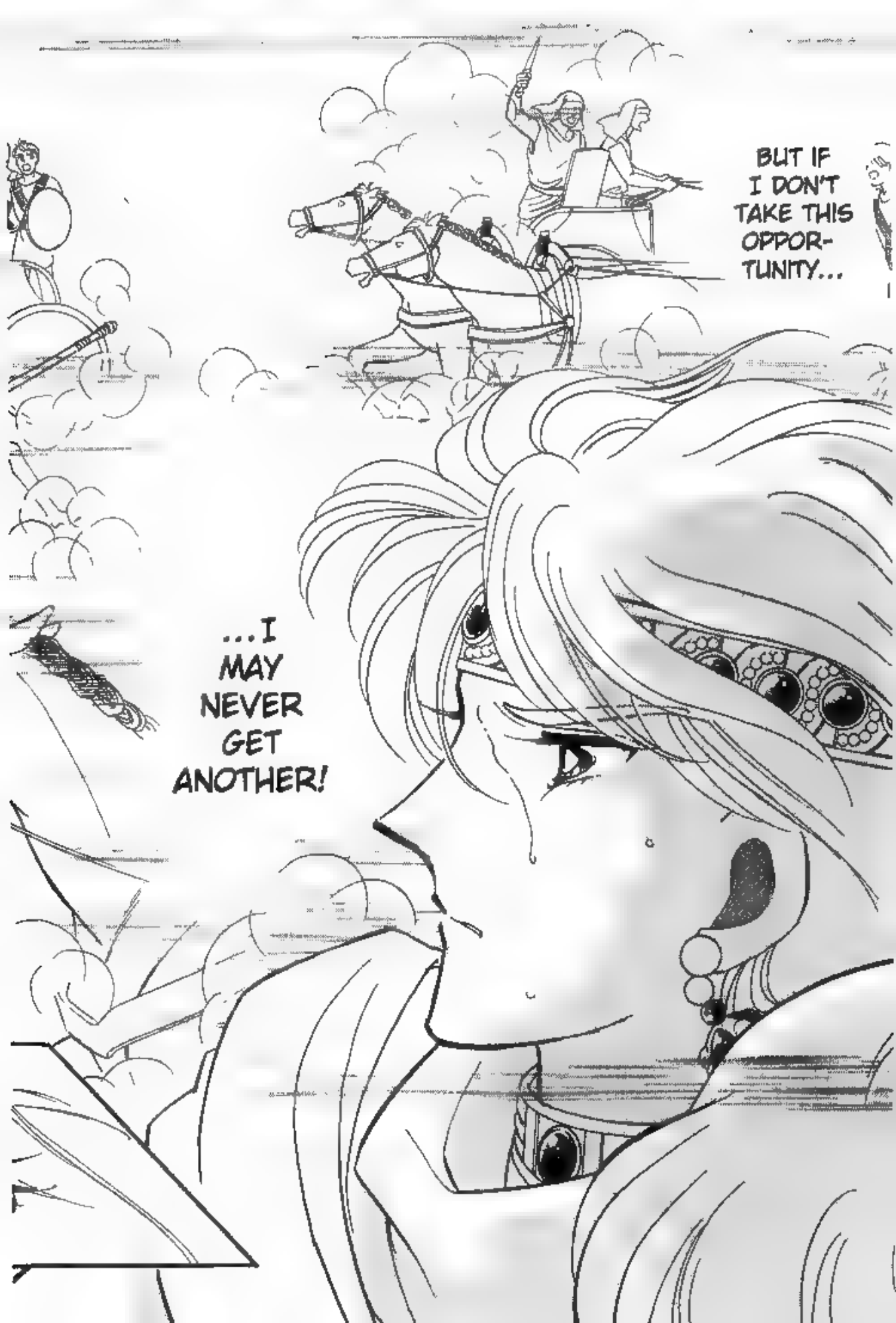
KIKKURI!
TAKE ME TO A VANTAGE POINT WHERE I CAN OVERLOOK THE ENTIRE BATTLEFIELD.
WHAP
YES, SIR!
...AND FOCUS ON MY RESPONSIBILITY TO THE NATION.
I MUST DISMISS

TA-RUMP TA-RUMP TA-RUMP
TA-RUMP TA-RUMP TA-RUMP
TA-RUMP TA-RUMP
YES, SIR!
GO ON!
YOUR MAJESTY!
UR
M
-B
LE

ROAR
ISN'T THAT RAMSES ?!
SURELY NOT, SIR.
GENERAL RAMSES WOULDN'T BE OFF BY HIMSELF.
ROAR
RAH
I WAS RIGHT! THAT IS RAMSES!

I WONDER...
CLOP CLOP CLOP
WHAT? THAT MAKES NO SENSE!
HE SHOULD BE LEADING HIS TROOPS!
...
...
SIR!
CLOP
HE IS THE HITTITE KING! YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET NEAR HIM!
YOU CAN'T THINK MURSILI II WOULD BE WILLING TO FIGHT YOU!
CLOP CLOP
HE WOULD NEVER BE SO FOOLISH.
I KNOW.

ROARRR
HARRR
ROOARR
...TO CLOUD HIS JUDGMENT!
IT WOULD BE UNTHINK-ABLE FOR A KING WHO HOLDS THE FATE OF HIS NATION IN HIS HANDS...
...OR A GENERAL WHO BEARS RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS TROOPS, TO ALLOW A PERSONAL VENDETTA...


BUT IF I DON'T TAKE THIS OPPOR-TUNITY...
...I MAY NEVER GET ANOTHER!

YOUR MAJESTY!
THAT HILL WOULD MAKE A FINE VANTAGE POINT!
RAHHR
ROAR
...
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

OBEY ME, KIKKURI!
ROAARRAH
KIKKURI...
FOLLOW RAMSES!
...
FORGIVE ME SIR, BUT...
...IF YOU LEAVE THE BATTLE-FIELD...
ROAR
SIR?

KASH! WHERE'S HIS MAJESTY?!
WHINNY
YOUR MAJESTY!
CLOP CLOP CLOP
HE'S GONE OFF WITH KIKKURI! BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE!
MY... MY APOLOGIES, MA'AM!
WHERE WOULD HE GO?!
KAIL GONE?
YOUR MAJESTY!

KAIL!
MEN!
HAVE ANY OF YOU SEEN HIS MAJESTY?
I SWORE TO PROTECT KAIL WITH MY LIFE, AND NOW HE'S MISSING.
HOW COULD I HAVE ALLOWED THIS TO HAPPEN?!

SPLASH
SPLISH

YOU ARE...
...MORE FOOLISH THAN I THOUGHT, YOUR MAJESTY.
...GENERAL.
I COULD SAY THE SAME OF YOU...

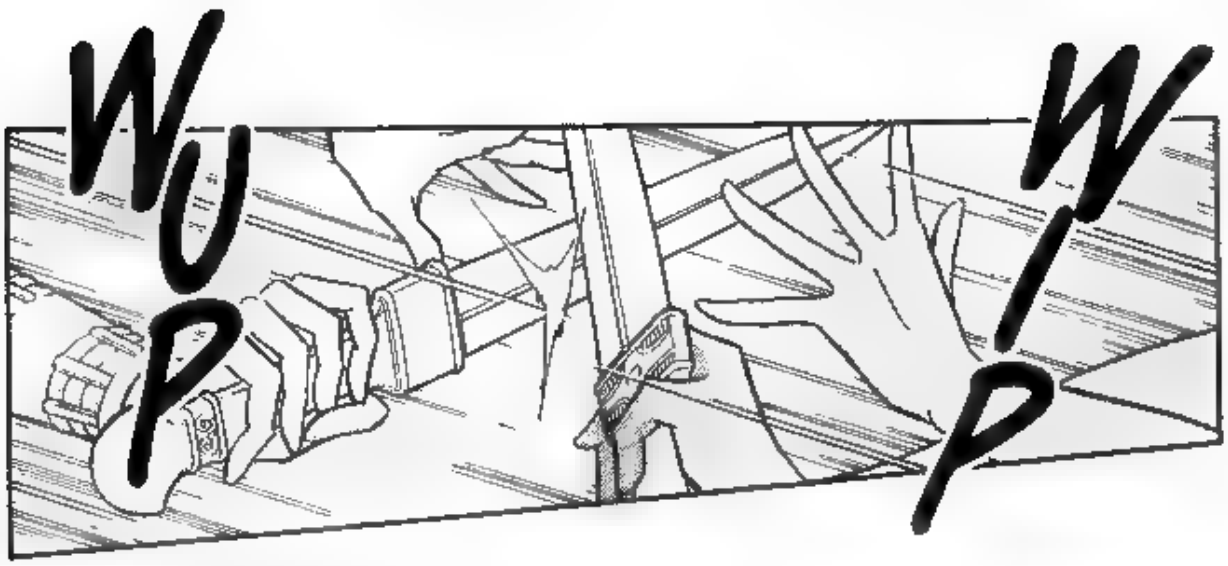
SLIKK
MURSILI II IS CELEBRATED AS ONE OF THE GREATEST KINGS IN THE HISTORY OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE.
WHINNY
GENERAL!
YOUR MAJESTY!

HIS REIGN LASTED ABOUT THREE DECADES.
...AS A WISE AND BENEVO-LENT LEADER.
HIS PEOPLE WERE SAID TO RESPECT HIM...

THERE WAS A MOMENT IN HIS LIFE, HOWEVER...

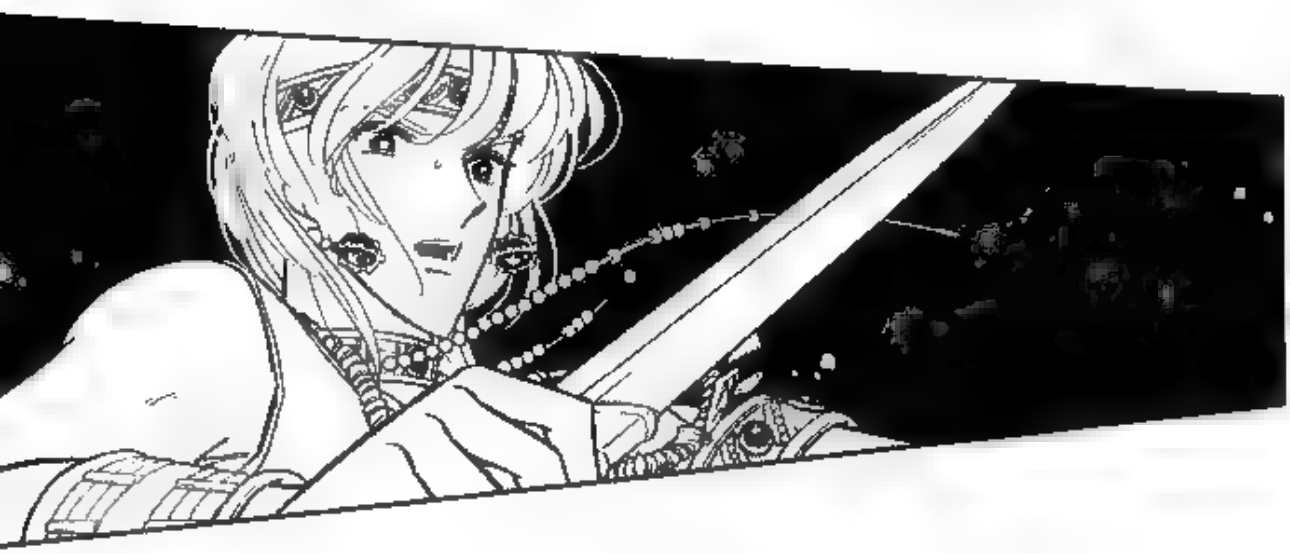
...WHEN HE PUT PERSONAL CONCERN ABOVE HIS RESPONSIBILITIES TO HIS PEOPLE.

KLANG



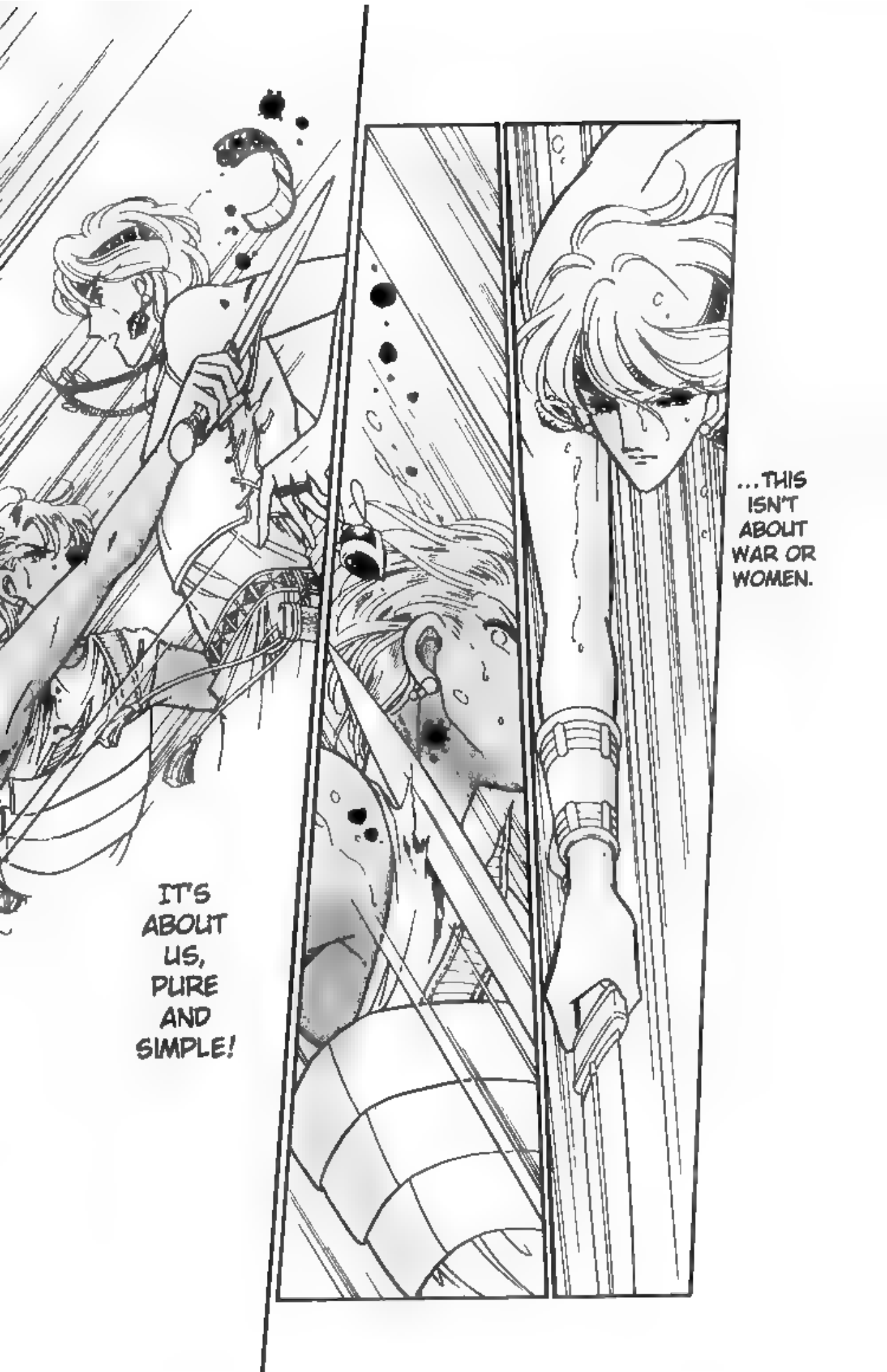
...AND HAD MY SHARE OF FIGHTS OVER WOMEN...

I'VE LED MEN INTO BATTLE MANY TIMES...



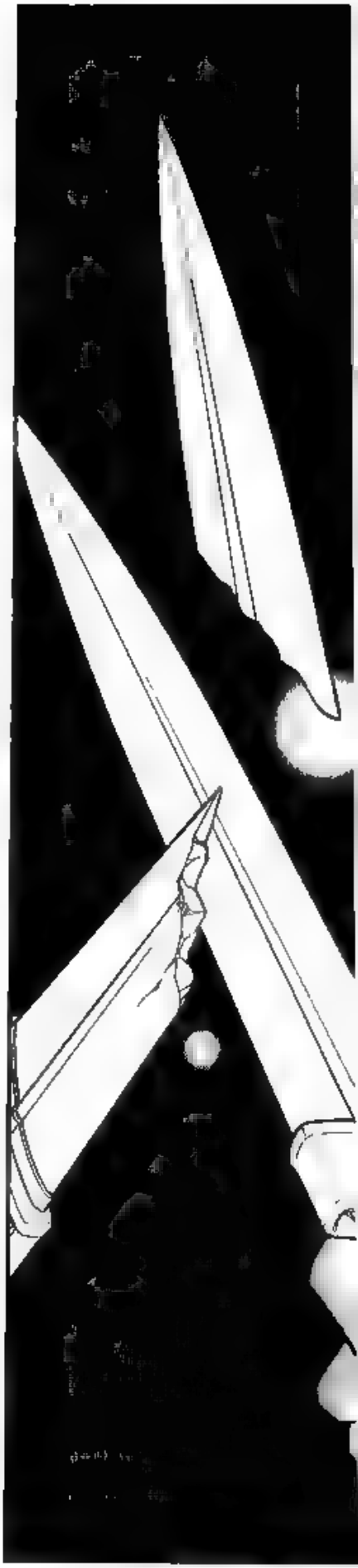
BUT...

GENERAL!
YOUR MAJESTY!
STAY OUT OF THIS, KIKKURI!
YOU TOO, WASET!
BUT...


...THIS ISN'T ABOUT WAR OR WOMEN.
IT'S ABOUT US, PURE AND SIMPLE!

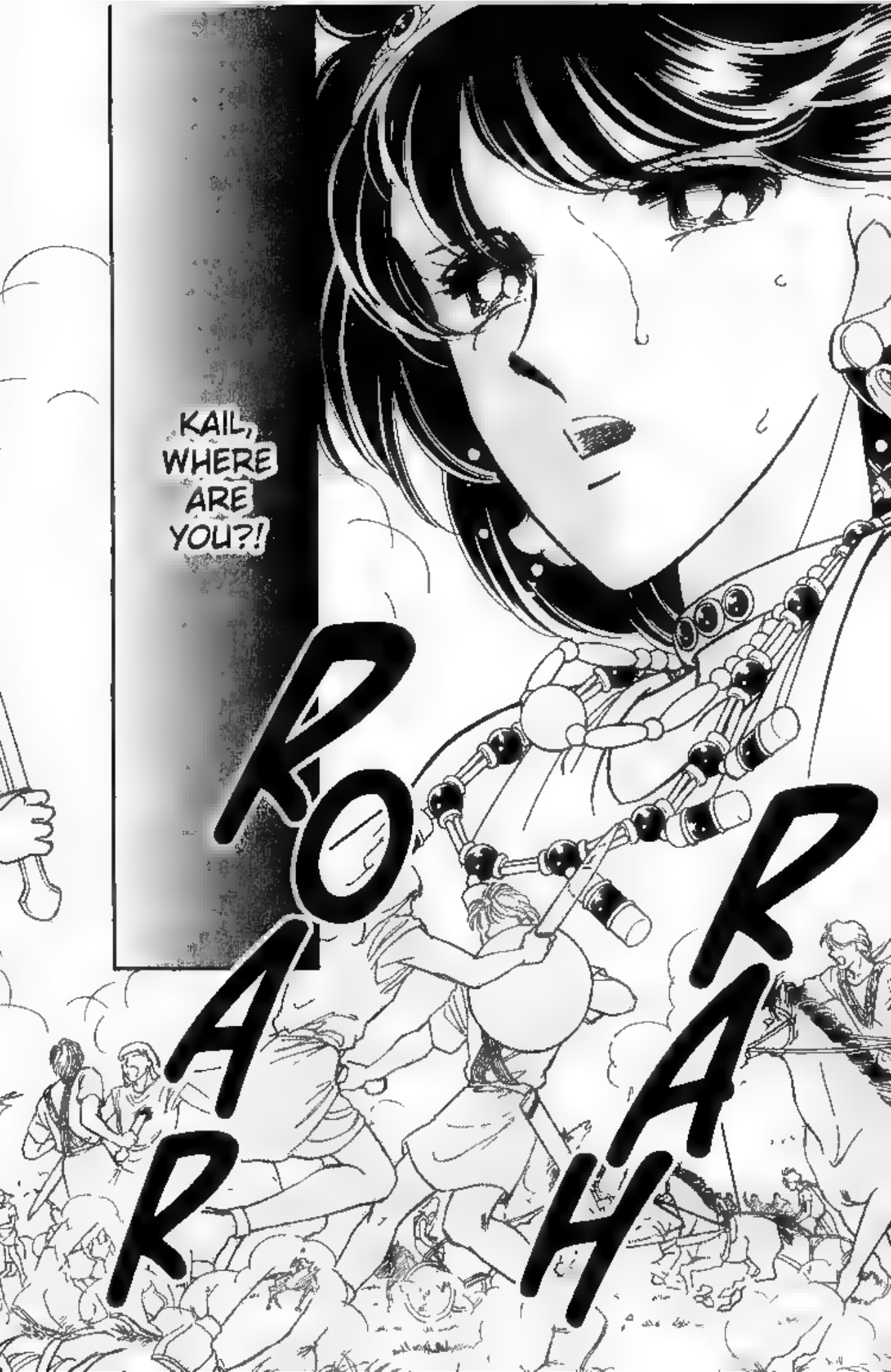
I WILL NOT LOSE.
I WILL SHOW MURSILI, I WILL SHOW THE WORLD, WHO IS...
...THE BETTER MAN!
KLANG

IT WAS IRON THAT GAVE THE HITTITE EMPIRE ITS ADVANTAGE...



...OVER EGYPT. IRON CHANGED THE MILITARY BALANCE...
...IN THE ORIENT.

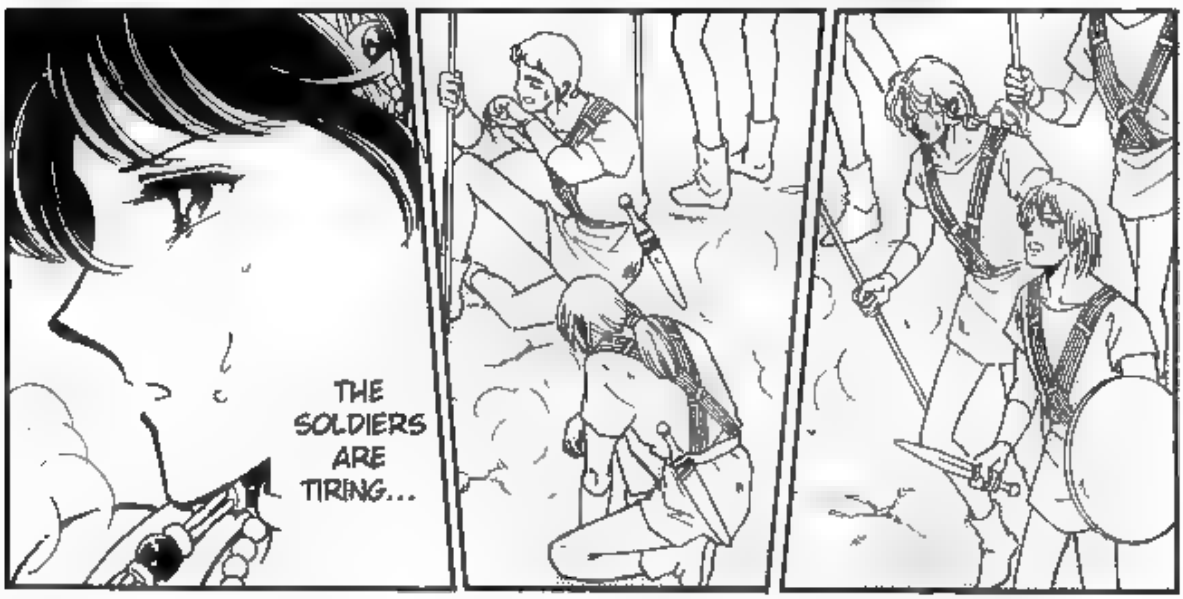
...AND THE COURAGE AND DARING OF THEIR KING IN THEIR HEARTS!
IT IS DOUBTFUL THE HITTITES COULD HAVE ACHIEVED THIS WITHOUT IRON IN THEIR SWORDS...
THANKS TO IRON, THE HITTITE EMPIRE SUCCESS-FULLY ENGAGED EGYPT.
RAHAD


KAIL, WHERE ARE YOU?!
ROAR
ROAR

I DON'T KNOW. HAS HE FALLEN? IF HE HAS, WHAT DO WE DO?
BUZZ
HEY, I DON'T SEE HIS MAJESTY. WHERE DID HE GO?
BUZZ
SETTLE DOWN!
WHINNY
ISHTAR!
SURELY YOU'VE LEARNED ENOUGH TO KNOW HOW TO FIGHT AS HE WOULD HAVE YOU FIGHT!
FOR YEARS YOU'VE MARCHED UNDER HIS MAJESTY'S COMMAND!
ISHTAR!

...AND DO YOUR JOBS!
JUST FOLLOW YOUR PLATOON LEADERS' ORDERS...
HIS MAJESTY WILL ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF.
WE WILL!
YES, MA'AM!
AS KAIL'S PROTECTOR, I'VE DONE A LOUSY JOB SO FAR.
WHAT RIGHT DO I HAVE TO BE DAL MESHEDI IF I CAN'T EVEN KEEP TRACK OF THE KING?
YES, MA'AM!
RUSAFA! INSTRUCT ALL UNIT COMMANDERS TO TAKE DIRECT COMMAND OF THE TROOPS AND ALERT THE ROYAL GUARDS TO SEARCH FOR HIS MAJESTY!

WHERE ARE YOU, KAIL? PLEASE, BE SAFE!


THE SOLDIERS ARE TIRING...

WOBBLE
ISHTAR!
SMILE
MEN, I KNOW YOU'RE EXHAUSTED, BUT YOU MUST CARRY ON.
THANKS TO YOUR EFFORTS, WE'RE GAINING GROUND.
BECAUSE OF YOU, WE WILL WIN!
YES, ISHTAR!
FIN

CLOP
CLOP
IS THAT RIGHT?
WELL DONE, PRINCESS YURI.
A GOOD COMMANDER NEVER ALLOWS THE TROOPS TO SEE HIS... OR HER... INNER TURMOIL.
...SO LONG AS THEIR COMMANDER SHOWS CONFIDENCE.
YES. HOWEVER DIRE THE SITUATION, SOLDIERS WILL FIGHT ON..
I SEE...
BUT THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW LONG...
...MEN CAN FIGHT BEFORE SIMPLY COLLAPSING.
KAIL'S PLAN WAS TO SURROUND THE EGYPTIANS.
BUT IN ORDER FOR THAT TO WORK, WE NEED HIM AT THE HEAD OF THE ARMY.

...
YES, ISHTAR ?!
HADI!
RYUI!
I WANT YOU TO TAKE A MESSAGE TO PRINCE MATTIWAZA AND PRINCE TELIPINU!
A MESSAGE?
ROAR ROAR ROAR

SPLASH
YOUR MAJESTY!
!!
I DON'T NEED...
...AN IRON SWORD.

...TO DEFEAT YOU!
I NEED NO WEAPONS...
EXCELLENT! THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE!

KLANK
FWAP!!
WUD
TH

SPLOOSH
FIRST IN, EH?!
!!

AGH!
KRKKKK
YOUR MAJESTY!
GENERAL!

ARE YOU SURE, ISHTAR?
WHAT?
HIS MAJESTY MURSILI II IS MISSING?!
I HAVE NEGLECTED MY DUTIES AS DAL MESHEDI. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET HIM OUT OF MY SIGHT!
YES, PRINCE MATTIWAZA AND PRINCE TELIPINU!
AND I TAKE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT!

I'M ASKING ONE OF YOU TO TAKE COMMAND OF OUR ARMY WHILE WE SEARCH FOR THE KING!
BUT FOR NOW, SOMEONE MUST LEAD IN HIS MAJESTY'S STEAD!
WHEN THIS IS OVER, I WILL ACCEPT WHATEVER PUNISHMENT YOU THINK APPROPRIATE.
PLEASE, I BEG YOU!
....
I CANNOT, ISHTAR. AS THE KING OF MITANNI, IT IS NOT FOR ME TO TAKE HIS MAJESTY'S PLACE.
NOR CAN I. SUCH A CHANGE WOULD ENERVATE THE TROOPS MORE THAN THEY ALREADY ARE.
WHO?! WHO IS IT?!
THERE *IS* SOMEONE SUITABLE, SOMEONE HIS MAJESTY WOULD APPROVE AND BEHIND WHOM THE MEN WOULD READILY RALLY.

...BUT AS THE SOLE CONCU-BINE OF MURSILI II, RULER OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE...
...YOU MUST TAKE COMMAND!
NO!
I'VE ALREADY FAILED AS DAL MESHEDI!
NOT AS DAL MESHEDI...
IT IS YOU, ISHTAR.

KAIL'S CONCUBINE...?
NO, I CAN'T. THE TASK IS TOO GREAT!
CLOP
RATTLE
I HAVE A REPORT, PRINCESS YURI!
IT APPEARS THEY'RE PLANNING TO CROSS!
THE EGYPTIANS ARE MOVING TOWARD THE ORONTES RIVER!
CLOP

WE CAN'T ALLOW THE EGYPTIANS TO ENTER OUR TERRITORY!
THEY MUST BE TURNED BACK!
WHAT?
...SO WE CAN BUILD A NEW DEFENSIVE LINE BETWEEN THE RIVER AND THE EGYPTIANS.
WE... WE SHOULD ORDER PRINCE TELIPINU TO MOBILIZE HIS TROOPS...
WHAT SHALL WE DO, ISHTAR?
OH... OH MY...
IF YOU GIVE ME AN ORDER, ISHTAR, I WILL OBEY IT.
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
THE SOLDIERS WILL FOLLOW IT, WITHOUT QUESTION.
WHY DON'T YOU ISSUE THAT ORDER?

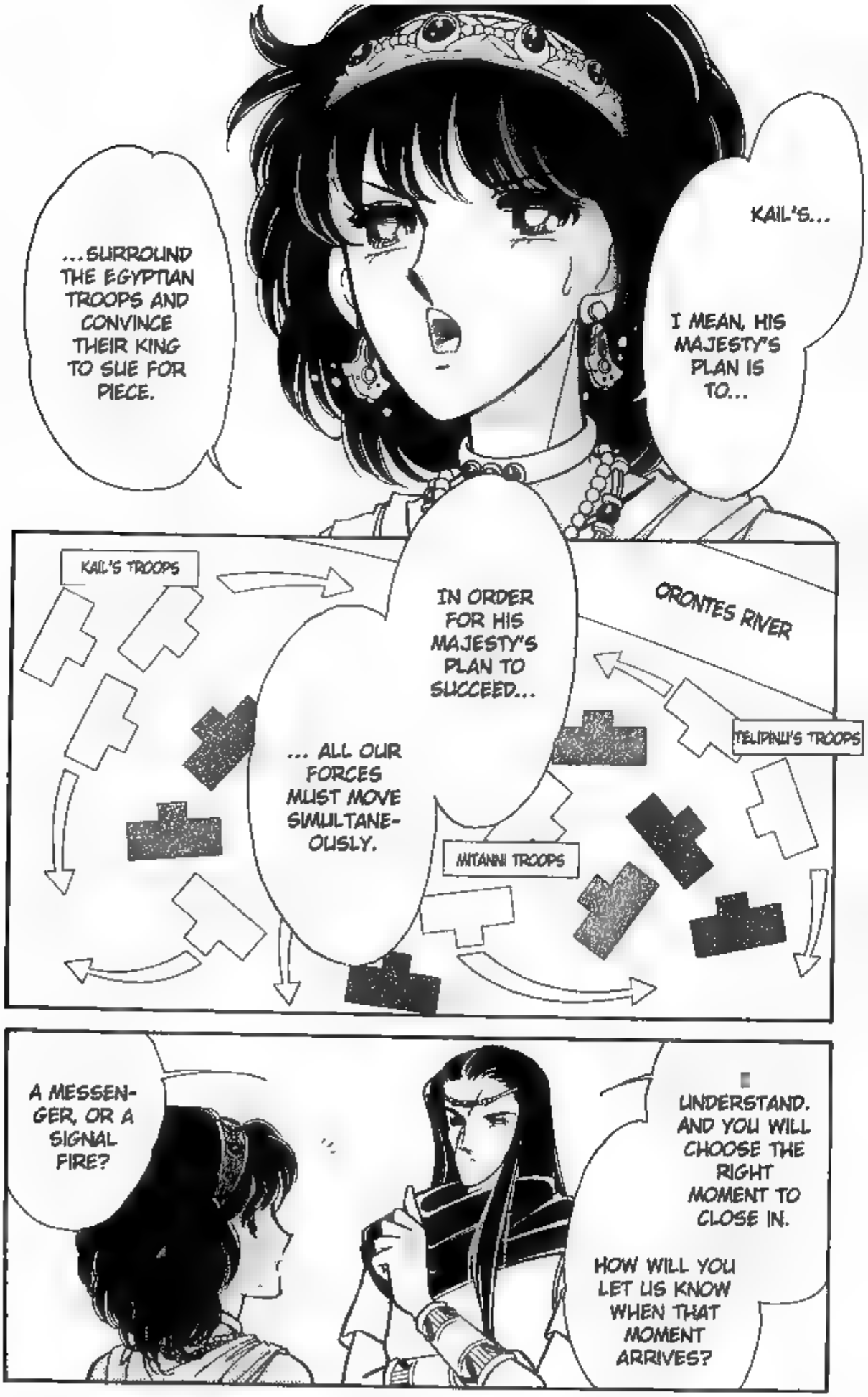
I NEVER IMAGINED I WOULD BE LEADING THE WHOLE HITTITE ARMY...
DECIDE NOW, ISHTAR.
PRINCE TELIPINU, PLEASE FORM A DEFE■■IVE LINE.
ROAR
RAH
ROAR

HITTITES! YOU ARE TO PREVENT THE EGYPTIAN ARMY FROM CROSSING THE ORONTES RIVER!
THIS ISN'T WHAT I EXPECTED. I'M NOT SURE I CAN FULFILL THIS ROLE.
BUT...
WITH PLEASURE, MA'AM!
AOR

BUT...
IT SHALL BE DONE, ISHTAR!
BA
OR
BA

KAIL, I CHOSE TO STAY IN THIS WORLD BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.
I WANT TO PROTECT ALL YOU HOLD DEAR.
I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T DESERTED US.

YES, ISHTAR?
I WILL ACT FOR YOU UNTIL YOU RETURN!
PRINCE MATTIWAZA!


KAIL'S...
I MEAN, HIS MAJESTY'S PLAN IS TO...
...SURROUND THE EGYPTIAN TROOPS AND CONVINCE THEIR KING TO SUE FOR PIECE.
KAIL'S TROOPS
ORONTES RIVER
IN ORDER FOR HIS MAJESTY'S PLAN TO SUCCEED...
... ALL OUR FORCES MUST MOVE SIMULTANE-OUSLY.
TELIPINU'S TROOPS
MITANNI TROOPS
A MESSEN-GER, OR A SIGNAL FIRE?
I UNDERSTAND. AND YOU WILL CHOOSE THE RIGHT MOMENT TO CLOSE IN.
HOW WILL YOU LET US KNOW WHEN THAT MOMENT ARRIVES?

I'LL USE MY FLAG!
HOW ABOUT THIS...
HOW TO SIGNAL...
I'LL BRING DOWN THE DAL MESHED! FLAGS FOR NOW.
WHEN THEY'RE RAISED AGAIN, THAT WILL BE YOUR SIGNAL TO ADVANCE!
VERY WELL!
MY ROLE IS TO TIGHTEN THE NOOSE AROUND THE EGYP-TIANS.
I ASSURE YOU IT WILL BE DONE!
RUSTLE

AT ONCE, MA'AM!
BRING DOWN THE FLAGS OF DAL MESHEDI!
CLOP
HADI!
INFORM PRINCE TELIPINU OF THIS PLAN!
OKAY, EVERYONE, WE'RE IN IT! DO YOUR BEST!
AND WHATEVER YOU DO, KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE EGYPTIANS! HIS MAJESTY WILL RETURN TO FINISH THEM, I SWEAR IT!

YES, ISHTAR!
YES, ISHTAR!
YES, ISHTAR!
YES, ISHTAR!

THUD
THE HITTITE DAL MESHEDI'S FLAGS HAVE BEEN LOWERED!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
COULD IT BE...
...YURI ISHTAR HAS LEFT THE BATTLEFIELD?
AGH!
THUK

I SWEAR...
SHE CAN'T DO THAT!
...I WILL BURY THAT WOMAN HERE!
ROAR
RAH
ROAR
RAH
ROAR

RAH
RAH
ROAR
ISHTAR, I'M HAPPY TO REPORT ...
...PRINCE TELIPINU'S TROOPS HAVE PREVENTED THE EGYPTIANS FROM CROSSING THE RIVER.
EXCELLENT!
I DON'T THINK KING HOREMHEB REALIZES WHAT WE'RE UP TO.
JUDGING FROM THE EGYPTIANS' MOVES, I'D SAY YOU'RE RIGHT.

NO, NOT YET.
CLOP
ALL OUR FORCES ARE DOING WELL.
SHALL WE MOVE IN ON THE EGYPTIANS?
"MY PLAN IS TO SURROUND THE EGYPTIANS. IF WE DO, WE CAN ROUT THEM." AS LONG AS WE DO IT AT THE RIGHT TIME."
THAT'S WHAT KAIL SAID.
BUT FOR AN INEXPERIENCED COMMANDER LIKE ME, IT'S A ROLL OF THE DICE.

THE EGYPTIANS ARE PLAYING RIGHT INTO OUR HANDS!
AND WHAT IF I CRAP OUT?
NOT YET...
RAH
RAH
DAMN! WHERE DID THAT TREACHER-OUS BITCH GO?
PRIN-CESS YURI...
PRINCE TELIPINU'S BEING PUSHED BACK.
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD FOR MUCH LONGER.
NOTED, RUSAFA!

I *MUST* WAIT UNTIL HOREMHEB BRINGS HIMSELF DEEP INSIDE THE POCKET WE'RE FORMING.
THE KEY IS THE PHARAOH.
UNTIL HE BRINGS HIMSELF...

...DEEP INSIDE THE POCKET...
NOW!
THAT'S IT! IT NOW RIDES...

RAISE THE FLAGS OF THE DAL MESHED!
...ON WHETHER OR NOT...
...THE MEN WILL FOLLOW MY ORDERS AND ACT IN UNISON!

WHACK
SMACK
YOUR.. YOUR MAJESTY!
I BEG YOU, PLEASE STOP THIS!
THAT'S ENOUGH, SIR!
GENERAL!

SPLOOSH
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
OR SALUTE HIM!
I DON'T KNOW IF I WANT TO KILL HIM...
PANT
PANT
PANT

I DO KNOW THAT I WON'T LOSE TO RAMSES!
I WON'T ACCEPT THAT I'M IN ANY WAY...
SMACK
WHACK
INFERIOR TO HIM!

GLOOM
I WON'T BACK DOWN... NOW OR EVER!

CRACK
GLENCH
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
PANT
PANT
PANT
GENERAL!
PANT
PANT
FRET
FRET
YOUR MAJESTY!

ROARR
SIR!
YOU MUST STOP, OR WE'LL BE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE!
THE BATTLE'S MOVING THIS WAY!
CLENCH

HUFF HUFF
IT'S INFURIATING... TO FIND YOU... SO DIFFICULT TO TAKE DOWN!
HUFF
HUFF
YOU TOOK THE WORDS... RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH.
HUFF

ZHF
ZHF
I SEE THE FLAGS...
GASP
...OF THE DAL MESHED!!
HOISTED LIKE... SOME KIND OF SIGNAL!
WHAT?!
11

I REFUSE...
...TO GO...
GASP
...DOWN...

...BEFORE RAMSES DOES!

SPLA
SH
YOUR MAJESTY!

ROAR
RAH
RAH
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT

THE SIGNAL'S BEEN GIVEN!
YES, MA'AM!
GIVE ME A FLAG!

ROAR
CLOP
SURROUND THE EGYPTIANS!
DON'T LET KING HOREMHEB ESCAPE!

RA
KA
KA
YES, MA'AM!
WELL DONE, ISHTAR.
YOU PICKED THE PERFECT MOMENT.

ALL OUR FORCES...
...ARE MANEUVERING EXACTLY ACCORDING TO MY ORDERS!
KA KA

RRRR

TAKE HIM, AND THE BATTLE IS OURS!
SWIF
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
TARGET PHARAOH HOREMHEB!
AW MAN, I REALLY LOVE YOU GUYS!

RETREAT, OR WE'LL BE SURROUNDED!
RRRR
RAH
PHARAOH!
THE HITTITES HAVE SWUNG AROUND!
ROAR
TA-RUMP TA-RUMP
...
IT'S TOO LATE, HOREMHEB.
THE TRAP IS SPRUNG!
MITANNI CHARIOTS!

WAS THIS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN?
THE HITTITES ARE REVERSING DIRECTION!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
ISHTAR!
I'VE FOUND HER!
I'M NOT GOING TO MISS HER THIS TIME!
MOVE! OUT OF MY WAY!

ROARRRAH
YOUR MAJESTY!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SPLASH

THE BATTLE'S NEARLY UPON US! ARM YOURSELF!
GENERAL!
RAH
RAH
ROAR
HE KNOCKED OUT ONE OF YOUR TEETH!
YOUR MAJESTY!
MUST'VE HAPPENED WHEN HE FELL!
HIS ARM'S BROKEN!
GASP
THROB
UNNH!
RFT

BACK, KIKKURI!
WOBBLE
HUFF
HUFF
ROAR
YOUR MAJESTY! NO!
THIS ISN'T OVER!
RAH
RAH
...SUBMIT TO THIS MAN!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I WILL NOT...
HUFF
HUFF

KLANK
SPLASH
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
YOU'RE IN THE WAY! MOVE!
SPLASH
PLEASE THINK ABOUT WHO YOU ARE AND...
YOUR MAJESTY!
KLANG!
ROAR
STOP THIS MADNESS BEFORE YOU'RE CUT DOWN AND...
I BEG YOU, SIR!

I STAND ...
...
MURSILI!
AS LONG AS YOU STAND, I'LL FIGHT YOU!

...AND I WILL FIGHT YOU, RAMSES!
I WILL NOT BE THE LOSER THIS DAY!

COME ON!
HUFF
HUFF
SIR!
...
ROAR
ROAR
YOUR MAJESTY!
HUFF
HUFF
ROAR

ROAR
ROAR

!!
FLAP
GET ME TO THE CHARIOT, KIKKURI!
YES, YOUR MAJESTY!
I'M RETURNING TO THE FRONT!
SPLASH

HOW ARE WE DOING?
WHAT? YUH.. YOUR MAJES-TY?!
TA-RUMP TA-RUMP TA-RUMP
O... GENERAL ...

KLANK
YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED. YOU'VE BEATEN MURSILI II!
ROAR ROAR
SIR, WE SHOULD GET BACK TO THE BATTLE AS WELL.
KLANK
HE ROSE ABOVE IT.
HUH?
I DID NO SUCH THING.
IN THE END, REASON RULED OVER EMOTION.
IF HE'D KEPT FIGHTING, I KNOW I COULD'VE TAKEN HIM.
BUT HE REMEMBERED HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS KING.

...WE EGYPTIANS...
...ARE LOSING THIS WAR.
...THE BETTER MAN.
AND NOW...
THE BASTARD SHOWED THAT HE WAS...
RAHRAHRAHRAHR

IT IS HIS LEADERSHIP THAT HAS MADE THEIR VICTORY POSSIBLE!
HSANG
THE HITTITE EMPIRE IS ABOUT TO DEFEAT EGYPT. THE FORCES MURSILI II LEADS WILL CRUSH OUR ARMY.
AOR

I'LL NEVER BE THE BETTER MAN...
...UNTIL I CREATE A NATION MORE POWERFUL AND PROSPEROUS THAN *HIS!*
RAOR

THERE'S NO NEED.
RUSTLE
PLEASE PUT ON YOUR ARMOR, SIR!
A FEW SECONDS?!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, SOLDIER, I BEG YOU!
BUT GENERAL, IF YOU'RE RETURNING TO THE BATTLE-FIELD...
I'M FINE AS I AM.
NO, YOU'RE NOT! IT WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW SECONDS ...
HUH?

ROAR
ROAR
ROAR
ROAR
OWWW
MY RIBS ARE BROKEN, YOU FOOL! TWO OR THREE OF THEM AT LEAST!
A PARTING GIFT FROM MURGILL..
I DIDN'T REALIZE, SIR!

ROAR
RAHRAH
ROAR
YOUR MAJESTY PHARAOH HOREMHEB OF EGYPT...
WE MUST TAKE YOU INTO CUSTODY.

ZOOM
HOW DARE YOU!
IF YOU SURRENDER PEACEFULLY, I PROMISE YOU WILL BE TREATED WITH RESPECT.
PLEASE DO NOT RESIST.
HURRAH
RAISE THE TAWANANNA'S FLAGS!
WE'VE CAPTURED THE EGYPTIAN PHARAOH!

ROAR
RAISE THE FLAGS OF ISHTAR, OUR TAWANANNA!
WHAT'S THAT THEY'RE SAYING?
HURRAH
SO THEY ARE.
THE SOLDIERS ARE CALLING OUR RED LION FLAGS...
...THE FLAGS OF THE TAWAN-ANNA!
I'D CALL THAT A SIZEABLE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR PRINCESS YURI.
HURRAH

WEDDING CEREMONY?!
WHEN WE HOLD THE WEDDING CEREMONY BACK IN HATTUSA...
...NAKIA'S REIGN WILL BE OVER, AND THE REIGN OF QUEEN YURI ISHTAR SHALL BEGIN.
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT PRINCESS YURI AS OUR QUEEN!
I AGREE.
PRINCESS YURI DIDN'T JUST PERFORM SUPERBLY AS DAL MESHED!...
...SHE'S ALSO SHOWN HER ABILITIES AS TAWANANNA*. EVEN THOSE HARDHEADED MINISTERS WON'T BE ABLE TO IGNORE THAT!

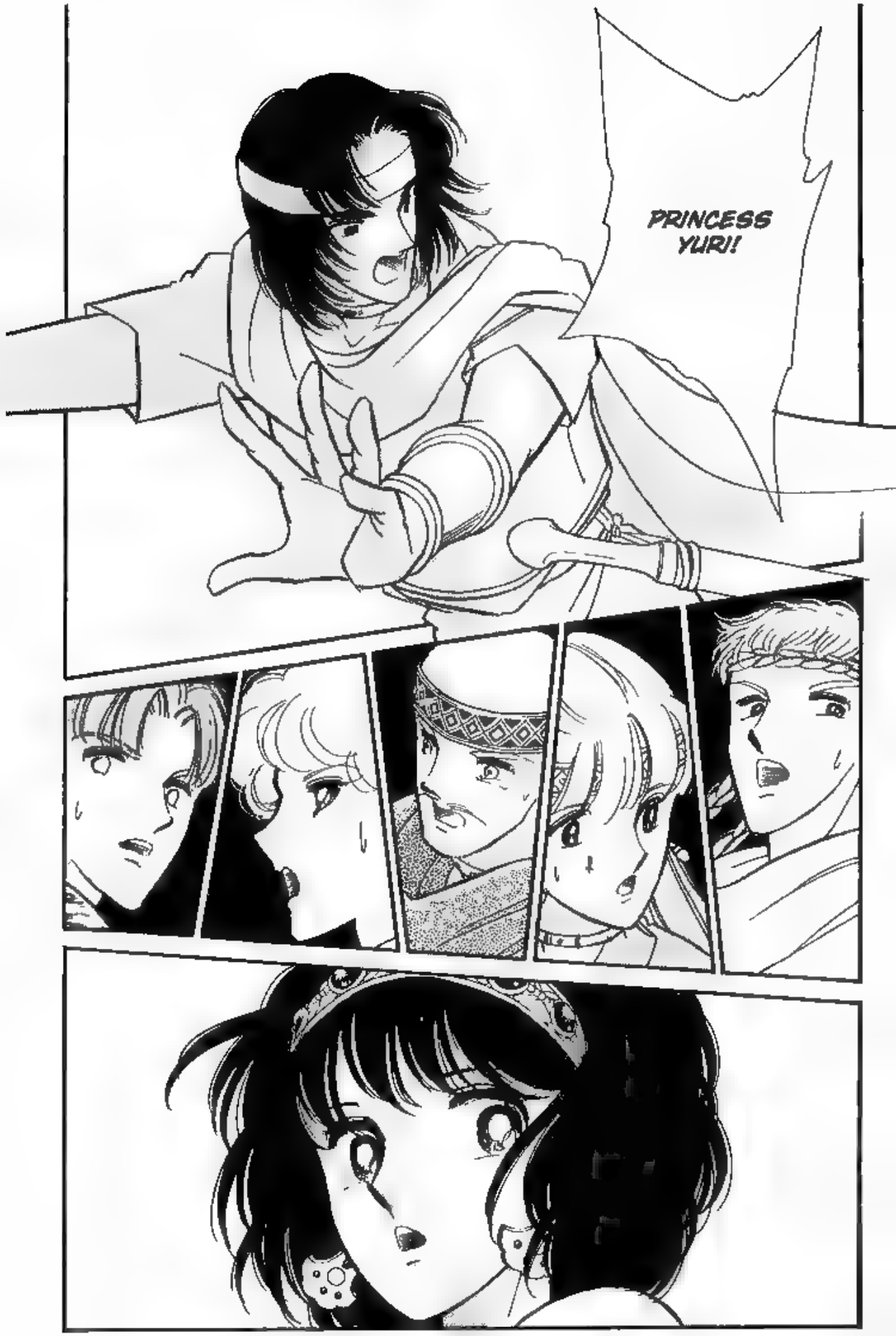
*TAWANANNA IS THE HIGHEST RANK A HITTITE WOMAN CAN ATTAIN. AFTER THE KING, IT IS THE MOST POWERFUL POSITION IN THE EMPIRE.

BA-BUMP
WHY AM I UPSET?
I SHOULD BE HAPPY FOR PRINCESS YURI.
SHE WILL BE...
...WITH THE MAN SHE LOVES, A MAN I WOULD GLADLY DIE FOR.
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
AND YET...
...I CANNOT BEAR THE THOUGHT OF IT!

YOUR MAJESTY...
I MUST ASK YOU TO HAND OVER YOUR SWORD.
ROAAR
RAH
HURRAH
SHF
ROAR
ROAR

YOU'VE PRESSED YOUR LUCK TOO FAR THIS TIME.
FOR YOUR FOUL BETRAYAL, YOU WILL DIE BY MY HAND.
THE GODS DEMAND IT!
CREAK
CREAK

CEREMONY...
IN
HATTUSA...
HURRAH
ROARING
DIE,
YURI
ISHTAR!


PRINCESS YURI!

RUSAFA!

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH I YEARN TO HAVE HER..
...SHE REMAINS A GODDESS I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TOUCH!

I WAS ALWAYS READY...
ALL I CAN OFFER HER IS MY LIFE!
HAPPILY, WITH NO HESITATION!

...TO SERVE IN THAT WAY!
RUSAFA!

GRRR
THUK!

THUD
?!

DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
SEIZE THAT MAN!
DASH
RUSAFA !
PRIN-CESS YURI!
RUSAFA!
FWAP

UNNH...
RUSTLE
WOBBLE

WOBBLE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, RUSAFA?!
RUSAFA!
YES, MA'AM.
THE ARROW ONLY GRAZED ME.
SLAP

PRINCESS YURI?!
DON'T PUT SO LITTLE VALUE ON YOUR LIFE!
I THANK YOU FOR SAVING MINE!
BUT I WON'T HAVE YOU VALUING MY LIFE OVER YOUR OWN!
THAT IS YOUR KING, HIS MAJESTY MURSILI II!
...WHO WARRANTS SUCH A SACRIFICE!
THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON...

ENOUGH BLOOD HAS BEEN SHED FOR MY SAKE!
TOO MUCH, IN FACT! THE LIVES OF TITO AND URSULA ALREADY BURDEN MY SOUL...
...AND I CAN'T BEAR ANOTHER! I CAN'T!

HEED HER, RUSAFA.
LIVE FOR MY SAKE, RUSAFA! IF YOU CARE FOR ME AT ALL, LIVE!

OUR GODDESS OF WAR HAS WISDOM...
...FOR KINGS AND SOLDIERS ALIKE.
YOUR MAJESTY!
KAIL!

YOUR MAJESTY...
RUSAFA, IF YOUR DEVOTION TO ISHTAR IS GENUINE, PASS IT ON TO YOUR OFF-SPRING...
...SO THEY MAY SERVE MY DESCENDENTS IN FUTURE GENERATIONS.
KAIL!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! GOD; YOU'RE BLEEDING!

YURI, I'M SORRY TO HAVE PUT YOU THROUGH THIS ORDEAL.
NEVER MIND, KAIL! YOUR WOUNDS-
HAVE BEEN SEEN TO.
HURRAH
ROAR
PHARAOH HOREMHEB...

MURSILI...
I PROPOSE A PEACE TREATY BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS.
HURRAH
AND REQUIRE TOTAL DISARMAMENT OF YOUR TROOPS.
PHARAOH...
OUR BATTLE IS OVER.
ROAR

I ACCEPT YOUR TERMS, MURSILI II.
I DO NOT SEE THAT I HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE.
YES... YES, YOUR MAJESTY.
INSTRUCT OUR TROOPS TO PUT DOWN THEIR WEAPONS.
ZHUF
...
UNTIL THE TERMS OF THE PEACE TREATY HAVE BEEN FORMALIZED, I MUST PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST.
PLEASE COME THIS WAY.

A MOMENT, YOUR MAJESTY!
THIS IS THE MAN WHO TRIED TO KILL ISHTAR!
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH HIM?!
KILL ME! KILL ME NOW!
TAHARQA..
DO IT, YOUR MAJESTY! PLEASE!
BUT HE'S BEEN TRYING TO KILL PRINCESS YURI ALL THIS TIME, SIR!
NOW THAT PHARAOH HOREMHEB HAS AGREED TO SIGN A TREATY, WE WILL NOT SUMMARILY EXECUTE EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS.

YOU ARISTOCRATS THINK YOU CAN TREAT COMMON PEOPLE ANY WAY THAT SUITS YOU!
I HAD NO CHOICE!
THAT WOMAN BETRAYED US! I LOST FRIENDS BECAUSE OF HER!
HUNDREDS OF EGYPTIANS LOST THEIR LIVES!
YURI IS MY BELOVED...
THAT'S WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?! NOTHING ELSE?!
SHE WILL RULE THE HITTITE EMPIRE AT MY SIDE.
IF SHE HAS ACTED DISHONORABLY, I ASSURE YOU MY PEOPLE WILL NOT ABIDE IT.

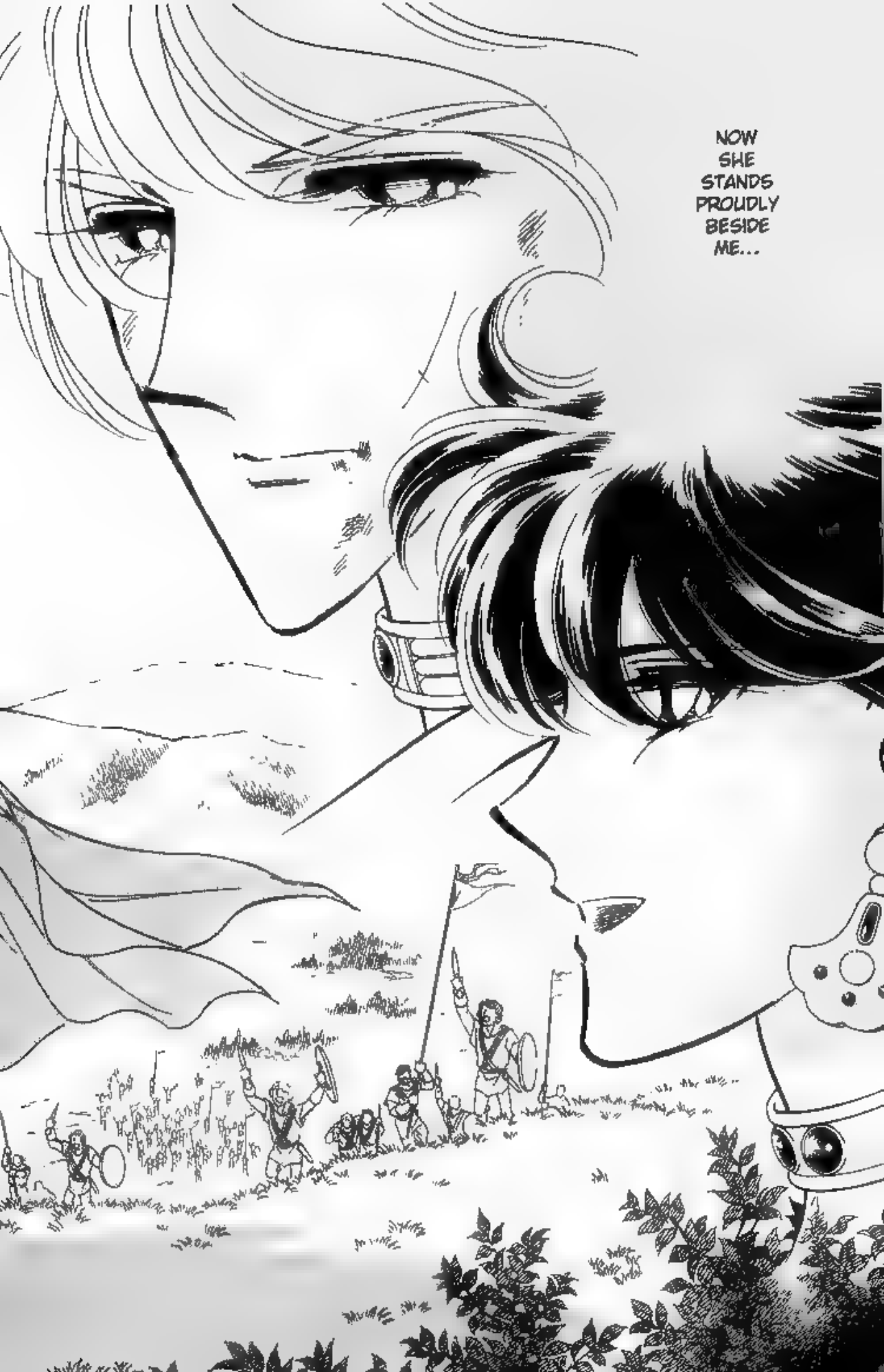
ON THOSE GROUNDS, YOU MUST NEVER AGAIN ATTEMPT TO HURT HER. NOW, I HAVE SAID WHAT I WILL SAY.
SO I ASK YOU, CAN YOU NOT LEAVE ISHTAR'S FATE IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE?
WHETHER YOU CAN OR NOT...
...YURI IS INDISPENSABLE TO ME AND MY NATION.

UNTIL THEN, KEEP HIM IN CONFINEMENT.
YES, SIR!
TAKE HIM AWAY.
AFTER THE TREATY IS SIGNED, HAND HIM OVER TO THE EGYPTIANS.
KAIL...
"YURI IS INDISPENSABLE TO ME AND MY EMPIRE."

I KNEW SHE WAS CAPABLE OF LEADING OUR RESISTANCE. I BELIEVED SHE UNDER-STOOD OUR CAUSE!
I THOUGHT THE SAME WHEN WE STOOD UP AGAINST OUR RULERS!
BUT SHE BELONGED TO THE ROYAL FAMILY OF ANOTHER NATION! SHE USED US!

HURRAH
ROAR
I WILL SUMMON A PHYSICIAN TO TREAT YOUR WOUNDS, YOUR MAJESTY!
KAIL.
DID YOU JUST SAY I'D BE GOVERNING THE HITTITE EMPIRE WITH YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELF A LEADER BY COMMANDING OUR TROOPS IN MY ABSENCE.
MOREOVER, I HEARD THE MEN TRIUMPHANTLY DECLARE YOUR BANNERS TO BE THE TAWANANNA'S FLAGS.

...SHE WAS NAKIA'S HELPLESS VICTIM.
SHE WAS TERRIFIED, SHIVERING BEHIND MY CLOAK.
WHEN I FIRST MET YURI...
YOU MUST NOW PREPARE YOURSELF FOR PERHAPS THE DEADLIEST STRUGGLE OF ALL...
...DISPLACING NAKIA. IT CAN NOW BE DONE, BUT YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I THAT MY STEPMOTHER WILL DO EVERYTHING CONCEIVABLE TO PREVENT IT.


NOW SHE STANDS PROUDLY BESIDE ME...

...AND
OUR
FUTURES
ARE
JOINED.

IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
GRAB
KAIL, PLEASE SIT DOWN AND WAIT FOR THE DOCTOR!
HOW BADLY ARE YOU HURT, REALLY?
FLAP
HE'S PATCHED UP COUNT-LESS HORSES...
DON'T WORRY, KIKKURI'S AN EXCEL-LENT FIELD MEDIC.
IT'S BROKEN!
YOUR ARM!
THROB
AGH!
WHAT?!

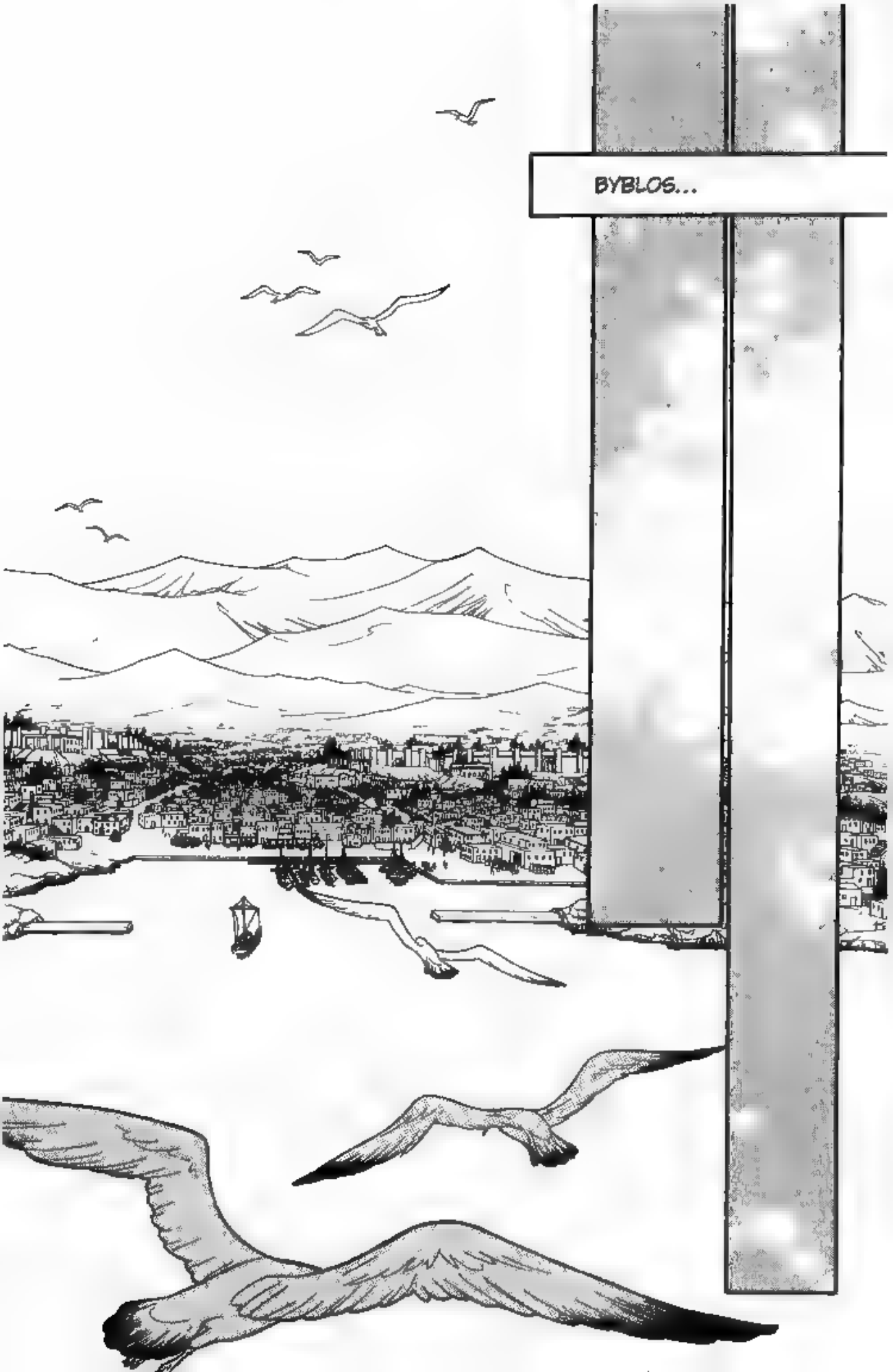
DON'T ASK...
WUFF
KAIL!
Y-YOU'RE NAKED UNDER THAT CLOAK! HOW—

?!
OWW...!

HURRAH
RAH RAH
UM... ROAR
IT'S A LITTLE COMPLICATED...
HOW'D THAT GET KNOCKED OUT?!
AND YOUR TOOTH!

THE WAR BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE HITTITE EMPIRE DREW TO A CLOSE.
"...SO THEY MAY SERVE MY DESCENDENTS IN FUTURE GENERATIONS."
"RUSAFA, IF YOUR DEVOTION TO ISHTAR IS GENUINE, PASS IT ON TO YOUR OFFSPRING..."

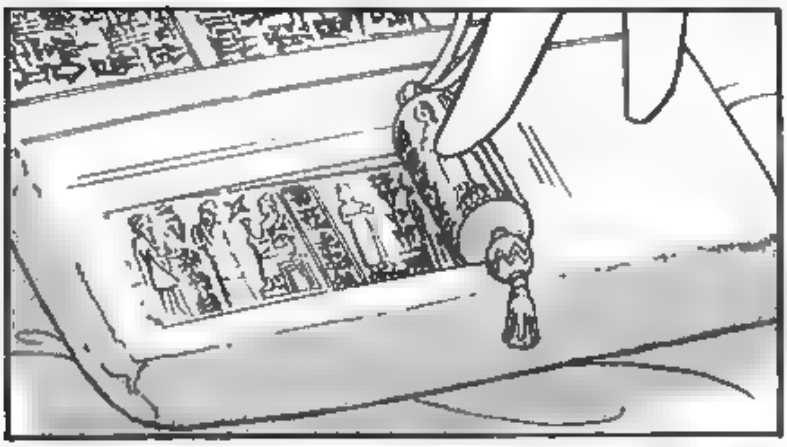
AS MURSILI II HOPED, THE CONFLICT TURNED OUT TO BE...
...THE LAST WAR FOUGHT BY THE EMPIRE DURING HIS REIGN.


BYBLOS...

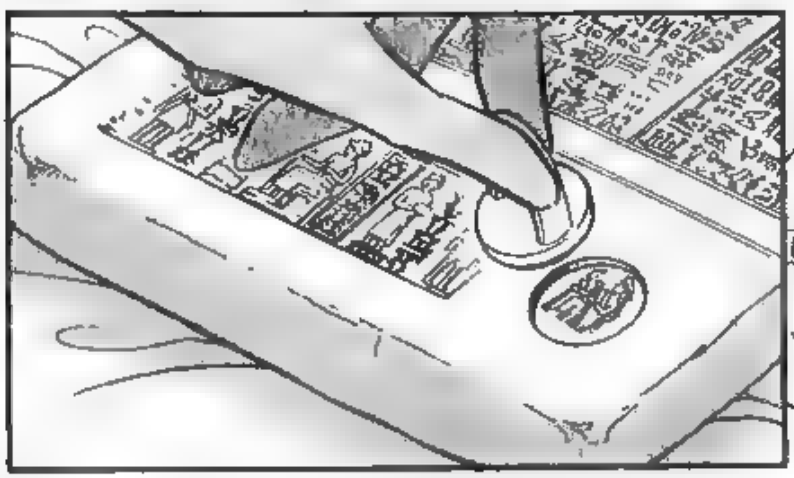
THE HITTITE—EGYPT PEACE CONFERENCE...
REGARDING THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS, WE WILL MAINTAIN THE EXISTING ONE.
TO SPECIFY, THE LAND NORTH OF THE ORONTES RIVER WILL BE HITTITE TERRITORY, AND THE LAND TO THE SOUTH OF IT WILL REMAIN IN EGYPTIAN HANDS.
AND WE WILL GRANT AUTONOMY TO PORT CITIES SUCH AS BYBLOS AND SIDON.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO THESE TERMS...
...YOUR MAJESTIES, MURSILI II AND PHARAOH HOREMHEB?
I HAVE NO OBJECTION.
YOU ARE KEEPING THE BORDER BETWEEN US AS IT IS...
...AND ONLY DEMANDING THAT WE PAY WAR REPARATIONS. HOW CAN I HOPE FOR ANYTHING MORE AGREEABLE?

KLING



SHIFF



THEN NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONCLUDED.
IT ONLY REMAINS FOR YOU TO SIGN THE TREATY, YOUR MAJESTIES.

IT IS DONE! THE PEACE TREATY...
...BETWEEN THE HITTITE EMPIRE AND EGYPT IS NOW IN EFFECT!
ETCH COPIES ON TWO BRONZE PLATES...
...ONE FOR EACH NATION.
AT ONCE, MA'AM.

BUT OF COURSE.
QUITE A SPECTACLE!
IN ADDITION TO THE RULERS OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE, MITANNI AND EGYPT...
WE ARE WITNESSING A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EVENT!
...WE HAVE THE GREATEST GENERALS FROM ACROSS THE ORIENT GATHERED IN THIS ONE ROOM.
I *THINK* THAT'S THE GUY.
AND THAT'S *HIM*, RIGHT?
I GUESS SO.

SULK
SO YOU'RE THE MAN WHO INJURED HIS MAJESTY MURSILI II...
WHEN YOU RETURN TO HATTUSA, YOU'LL BECOME THE HITTITE QUEEN. ARE YOU PLEASED?
YOU RAN THE PEACE CONFER-ENCE WELL. IT WAS QUITE IMPRES-SIVE.
...GENERAL RAMSES?
AH, YURI...
WELL, YES...

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE, GENERAL RAMSES. AND FOR ENTERTAINING YURI.
YOU CAN STILL CHANGE YOUR MIND, YOU KNOW.
I'M SURE.
AND I'VE NO DOUBT SHE FOUND YOUR COMPANY QUITE... AMUSING.
ALWAYS A PLEASURE, YOUR MAJESTY.
AFTER ALL, YURI AND I KNOW EACH OTHER SO WELL AFTER ALL THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER IN EGYPT.
CLAP
IT'S TIME TO CELE-BRATE!
UM... TO THE BANQUET ROOM, EVERY-ONE!
CLAP
WE'RE ADULTS HERE, OKAY?
GLARE
WILL YOU TWO KNOCK IT OFF?

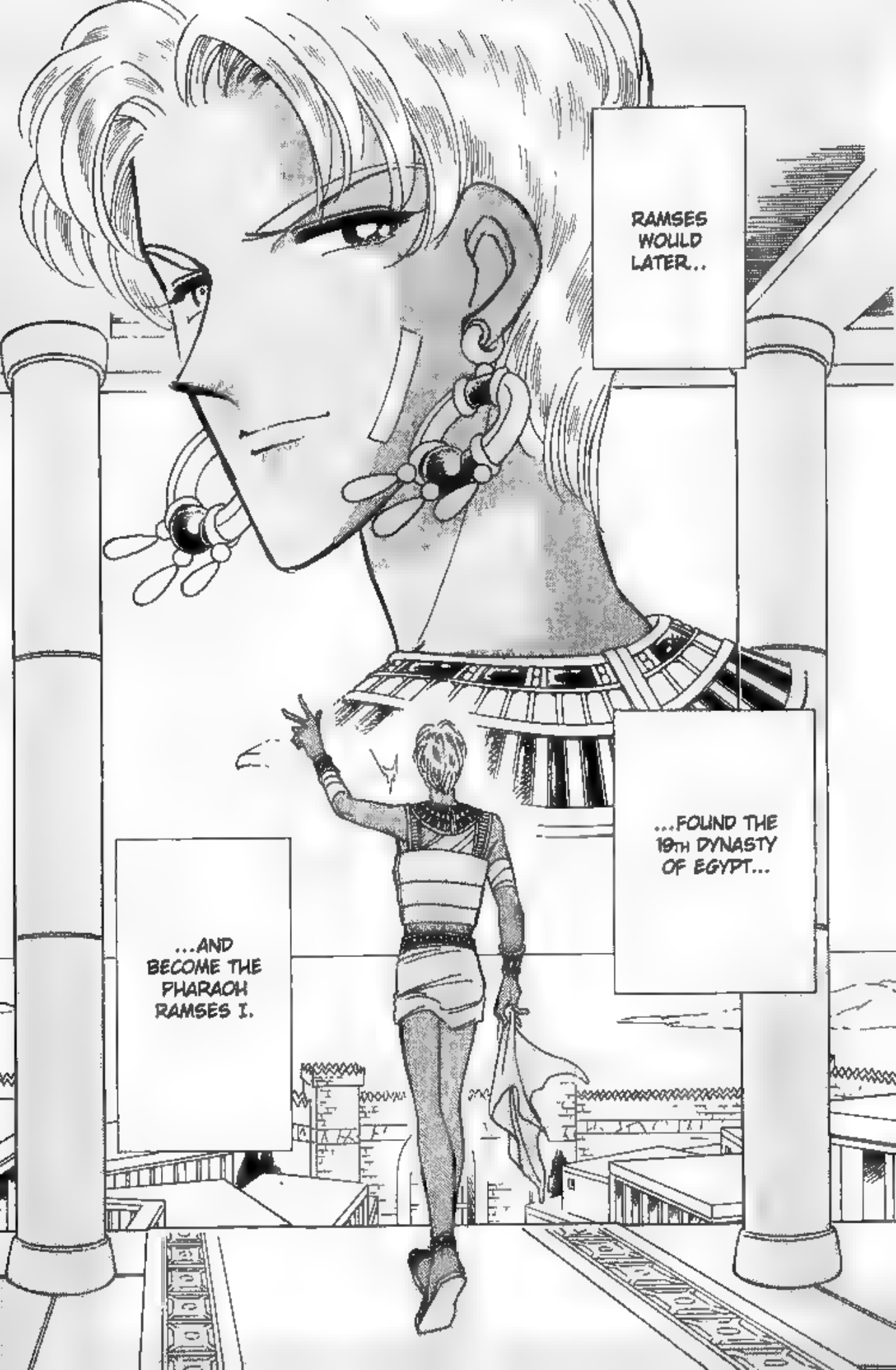
BUT...
AREN'T YOU COMING TO THE BANQUET, RAMSES?
IT'S NOT MY PRACTICE TO LINGER ON THE BATTLEFIELD ONCE THE FIGHTING IS OVER.
WHAT IS IT?
STARE

TO PUT IT PLAINLY...
...I'M SURE I WILL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.
WHAT IS HE SAYING?
IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE ANOTHER MAJOR CONFLICT OCCURS IN THIS REGION.
I DOUBT I WILL EVEN LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE EGYPT'S MILITARY RESTORED TO ANYTHING LIKE ITS FORMER GLORY.

IS HE RIGHT? IS THIS...IT?
I... I NEVER THOUGHT...
GRIN
I STRONGLY ADVISE YOU TO GIVE MURSILI II A CHILD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

...BECOME THE BRIDE OF MY FUTURE SON.
RAM...
...
AND I WOULD HAVE IT BE A DAUGHTER.
BECAUSE I WOULD LIKE TO SEE HER..

SMOOCH
WITH THAT I DEPART, DEAR YURI.
HEY!
SWING
WHUP
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, RAMSES!


RAMSES WOULD LATER..
...FOUND THE 19TH DYNASTY OF EGYPT...
...AND BECOME THE PHARAOH RAMSES I.

HIS GRANDSON, RAMSES II, THE THIRD KING OF THE DYNASTY...
...IS REGARDED AS EGYPT'S GREATEST AND MOST POWERFUL MONARCH.

IT WOULD COME TO PASS THAT A HITTITE PRINCESS, A GRANDDAUGHTER OF MURSILI II...
...WOULD MARRY INTO THAT DYNASTY AS THE WIFE OF RAMSES II.

GLOOSH
"IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE ANOTHER MAJOR CONFLICT OCCURS IN THIS REGION."
BUT FOR ME, THERE REMAINS ONE REALLY FIERCE BATTLE LEFT TO FIGHT.

KLONK
WHEN WE RETURN TO HATTUSA, I WILL HAVE TO CHALLENGE NAKIA IN ORDER TO SECURE MY STATUS AS TAWANANNA.
YOU DON'T SEEM VERY HAPPY ABOUT OUR VICTORY OVER EGYPT.
HUH?
IS IT BECAUSE YOU WON'T BE SEEING RAMSES AGAIN?
WHAT?! NO!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT BECOMING MY WIFE, THEN?
THANK YOU.
LET ME HELP YOU.
BUT, HONESTLY, I'M A LITTLE SCARED.
I'M VERY HAPPY AT THE THOUGHT...
...OF BECOMING YOUR WIFE, KAIL.

...IS A DAUNTING PROSPECT. IT MEANS TAKING ON A HUGE RESPONSIBILITY AS YOUR QUEEN.
...MY CONFI-DENCE IS NOT...
!!
BECOMING YOUR LAWFUL WIFE...
I'LL TAKE IT ON, AND DO ALL I CAN TO FULFILL IT, BUT...
OFFICIAL RESPON-SIBILITY, NOT JUST WHAT HAPPENS TO FALL TO ME.

KA... KAIL...
YOU'RE STILL INJURED... AND YOU HAVE A FEVER!
I'M ALL RIGHT. STOP TALKING.
RUSTLE
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SUCH THINGS.
WHEN YOU'RE ALONE WITH ME...
GULP.
UM..

KAIL...
STOP WORRY-ING...
...OR YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PROPERLY REWARD YOUR KING FOR WIN-NING THE WAR.
RIGHT NOW I DON'T CARE ABOUT TERRITORY OR TREASURE, WAR OR POLITICS. ALL I WANT IS YOU.

...ARE THESE MOMENTS WITH MY BELOVED KAIL!
AND ALL I WANT...

JUST HIS TOUCH...
...STEELS ME FOR ALL THE HARDSHIPS THAT LIE AHEAD.

UGARIT...
THERE! THE PALACE OF UGARIT!
CLOP

AND MY CONFRONTATION WITH NAKIA!
HATTUSA!
GOOD TO SEE THEY'RE RECOVERING SO WELL.
...THEN HEAD FOR HATTUSA AT LAST!
WE'LL REST HERE FOR A BIT...
BIG SISTER!
WELCOME BACK...
...YOUR MAJESTY, PRINCESS YURI.

THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER THIS PALACE DURING MY ABSENCE, ILBANI.
PRINCESS ALEXANDRA! SHALA!
I WAS DELIGHTED TO HEAR OF PRINCESS YURI'S SUCCESS AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AS WELL.
MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VICTORY, YOUR MAJESTY.
Y-YES, THANK YOU, ILBANI.
THANK YOU AGAIN.

...TO TAKE HOME WITH YOU.
I HAVE A SURPRISE, A SPECIAL SOUVENIR..
SOU-VENIR?
EH?
PLEASE. COME AND HAVE A LOOK AT IT.

URHI?!
URHI SHALMA, NAKIA'S CONFIDANT!
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?